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(54) Communications network monitoring

(57) The disclosure relates to a method of monitoring a communications network comprising a plurality of node equipment, eg switches, and link equipment, eg fibre optic links, in which performance parameters of individual components of the node equipment are used to determine an overall performance parameter for the node equipment. By comparing like performance parameters for individual network elements, the performance of different types of network element can be compared with each other. Parameters which can be monitored include quality of service, cell discard cell loss and other measures of network performance. Connection tracing through the plurality of node equipment and link equipment is also achieved by identifying the communications connection across a plurality of network elements (221), collecting data signals containing data of an operational parameter (223, 225) processing the collected signals (224, 226) and displaying the processed data relating to the identified network elements (227).

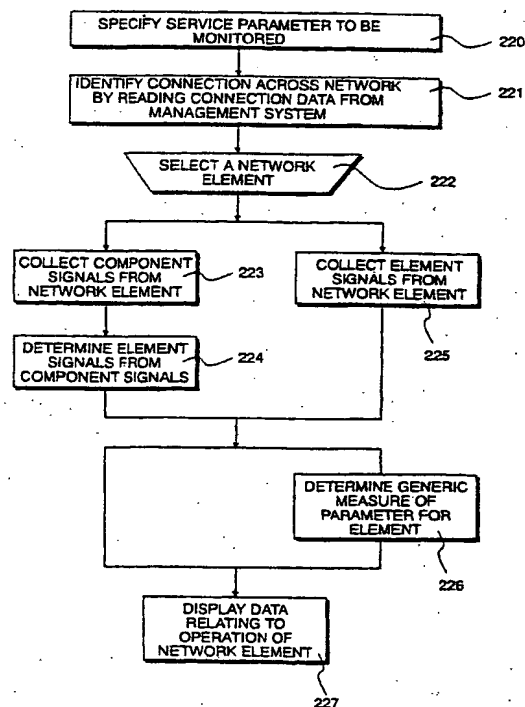


FIG 22



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 97 30 5900

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A	* abstract; figures 1-3,5,6,8 * * page 1, line 1 - page 11, line 6 * * claims 1-11 *	1-7	
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Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 9 December 1998	Examiner Cichra, M
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

EPO FORM 1503 03/92 (P4/C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82

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